

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on Appeal No. 2003-1208 that issued in this case on November 25, 2003. Claims 1-7 and 22-25 were on appeal before the Board. The Board affirmed the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, reversed the rejection of claims 3, 6, and 22-25, and entered a new ground of rejection as to claim 6.

Responsive to the Board's decision, the following actions are hereby taken:

- claims 1 and 6 are cancelled;
- claim 3 is amended by rewriting it in independent form; and
- claims 2, 4-5, and 7 are amended to make them dependent on claim 3.

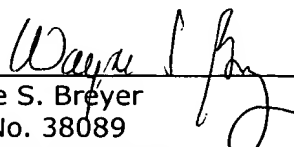
It is believed that the amendments to claims 2, 4-5, and 7 are permitted under 37 CFR. 1.198 and MPEP 1214.07:

If the amendment obviously places an application in condition for allowance, regardless of whether the amendment is filed with an RCE, the primary examiner should recommend that the amendment be admitted, and with the concurrence of the supervisory patent examiner, the amendment will be entered. Note MPEP § 1002.02(d).

Should there remain unresolved issues, the applicant requests that the Examiner telephone the applicants' attorney at 732-578-0103 x12 so that those issues can be resolved as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,

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